

**Siuslaw Awards** from 1A

**FUTURE FIRST CITIZEN**

The five nominees for the Future First Citizen were chosen because of their high level of academic and community involvement at Siuslaw High School.

**Benjamin Cahoon** is the son of Ahern and Trudie Cahoon. He is a senior at Siuslaw High School and an active participant and leader in Siuslaw High School Pep Band, Viking Hour and Key Club. He has been a member of the National Honor Society during his four years in high school.

Cahoon also served as the student representative for the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Florence Events Center. The Siuslaw senior has played a prominent role in student art in Florence, teaching at art camps for younger students and being selected as an artist for the Dancing with Sea Lions Project in 2016. His sea lion, "Eco," is now permanently installed at Siuslaw Public Library in Florence.

**Celie Mans** is the daughter of Bob and Julie Mans. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and

Interact Club. Mans has served on student government and participated in Leadership class at Siuslaw High School. She has participated in varsity cross country and track during all four years at Siuslaw and has achieved individual and team titles in both sports.

Mans has spent time mentoring younger athletes in goal setting and skills.

**Elyssa Rose** is the daughter of Mike and Michelle Rose. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been involved with Interact, HOSA and Leadership at Siuslaw High School. Rose has participated in sports throughout her high school career and was recently selected as all state in volleyball.

She is involved with the community's youth and has helped coach sports clinics for youth in the community.

**Destinie Tatum** is the daughter of Kerri and Clint Tatum. She has been a member of the Honor Society at Siuslaw High School and both a leader and participant in high school government, Key Club, Interact, the SHS Holiday food drive and American Red Cross blood drive at the high school.

Tatum has been an active participant and leader for four years in high school

sports including volleyball, cross country, basketball and track and field.



**Claire Waggoner** is the daughter of Jennifer and Dan Waggoner. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has participated and served in leadership roles in student government, Interact and KCST's student radio show "Viking Hour."

Waggoner helped to organize the Siuslaw High School Veteran's Assembly this year, and sings in the Chamber Choir. She has participated as a member of Siuslaw's varsity volleyball, basketball and softball teams.

**FIRST CITIZEN**

For the 2016 year, there are four nominees for the Florence First Citizen. These individuals have been chosen because of their high level of community involvement and leadership.

**Ron Caputo**, nominated by the Florence Rotary Club, has volunteered in community activities since he and

his family arrived in Florence in 1994.

He has volunteered in leadership roles for the Florence STEP program, serving in board roles and helping in grant and fundraising activities.

As a member of the Florence Rotary Club, he has been a strong leader in numerous local and world community service projects. He has volunteered on many community projects over the years, including the Christmas Basket program, Florence beautification projects, St. Mary's Men's Club, and is an OSU Master Watershed steward.

He currently serves on the board of the Port of Siuslaw.

**Bou Kilgore**, nominated by Siuslaw High School, is the lead Aspire volunteer at the high school. Through her continual commitment to the Aspire program, she has helped students obtain thousands of dollars in scholarship packages for more than nine years.

Kilgore has also served on the board of the Florence PTA and Florence Area Community Coalition. She has helped with the local Girl Scout troops and been active in the Beyond High School Network events in Lane County.

**Sam Spayd**, nominated by Cal Applebee, has volunteered in the community for years. He has served in lead-

ership roles on the Airport Advisory Committee, Oregon Coast Military Vehicle Group, Florence Chamber Board and SEAc coast Entertainment Association.

He is a strong supporter of the community through his involvement with the Florence Regional Art Alliance, Dancing with Sea Lions and the annual Rotary Golf Tournament.

Spayd has also supported Siuslaw Outreach Services, the Salvation Army and Lane Community College with fundraising and awareness campaigns.

**Gary Vawter**, nominated by the Florence Kiwanis Club, has been involved with the Florence community since his arrival with his family in 2009.

He has served in leadership roles on the Kiwanis Board and has helped organize the Florence Thanksgiving community dinner, Octoberfest Breakfast fundraiser, Kiwanis Club membership and Flag committee.

Vawter is a strong supporter of the Florence Elks Lodge, serving as an Elks Club officer, and as a volunteer kitchen liaison. He is also involved with the annual Elks Kids Christmas party and as a member of the Relay for Life committee.

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**FURA** from 1A

As part of the plan, a gateway arch to Old Town is proposed at the intersection of Maple Street and Highway 101. Another Old Town gateway comprised of two art deco style monoliths, similar to the ones adorning the Siuslaw River Bridge, will be located on each side of Quince Street at the intersection with Highway 126.

In addition to the two Old Town gateways, re-angling several cross streets and planting landscaping, FURA plans

include pedestrian amenities like updated lighting, benches and bike racks, as well as incorporating more public art.

Greene said, "If we take Highway 101 and convert it into a more modern, pedestrian friendly boulevard, it will entice investment."

FURA is working with businesses located along that section of Highway 101 to make sure changes are acceptable.

Messmer said, "We are working very closely with business and property owners to see if they want changes made. The

changes are for things like the number and location of driveway access to Highway 101 and side streets. These are not required changes."

Funding for the project will come from a variety of sources, including state and county funds.



Artist's rendering of the Maple Street Old Town gateway arch, part of the \$6 million ReVision Florence project

But the gap between funds available and estimated funds needed is still about \$2.6 million, according to Messmer.

"At our last urban renewal meeting we discussed the funding packages that we could present," Messmer said. "As a municipality, we can fund the gap through borrowing. We also think there is potential for other sources."

Messmer gave examples like additional ODOT funding, Lane County Transit Room Tax and storm water fund income.

If the city has to borrow to fund the entire funding gap, it will cost the city an estimated \$186,000 per year to service the debt and an additional \$100,000 per year to maintain the upgrades, according to Messmer.

"We have not built these costs

into the long range plan yet. We are starting that process now for the city's 2017-18 budget," she said. "We are getting direction from urban renewal on how to budget for this."

Messmer explained why the project did not extend farther north along Highway 101.

"It is important to remember that this is an urban renewal project and our urban renewal district doesn't go past 12th Street going north and we can only operate within the urban renewal district," she said.

Greene said, "FURA, the city council and the mayor believe that this can also start economic investment and development. We want to bring Old Town up to Highway 101. That is the future."

For more information, visit [ci.florence.or.us/urbanrenewal/](http://ci.florence.or.us/urbanrenewal/) revision-florence.

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**CHILI COOKOFF**

*Let's Do This!!!*

**3rd Annual CHILI COOKOFF and BAKE SALE**  
When: SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st  
Where: ELKS LODGE, 1686 12th ST, FLORENCE, OR  
Time: 2PM to 4PM. Entry on East side of the Lodge

Open to the public!  
\$1.00 charge when you decide to purchase a bowl of chili which counts as a vote (no fees for a small taste of the various chili), or 6 bowls for \$5.00. Coffee, tea and water will be provided at no cost (You can purchase your favorite soda or alcohol).

You may want to bring your own TUMS @

If you think you have what it takes to win the best chili in Florence, sign up and bring your favorite batch to be judged. All participants must provide a minimum of 18 quarts of chili. The attendees will judge your entry. They get a free taste and then if they decide to buy a bowl, their ticket is placed in your basket. The most tickets win. A vote will decide ties. Prizes awarded for top 3 places.

**BAKE SALE**  
The annual bake sale and auction will coincide with the chili festivities and you will have the chance to buy or bid on some of the best desserts this side of grandma's house. There will also be a silent auction for the most decorated desserts. Yum, yum!!!

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Florence/Central Coast!  
Relay for Life teams will receive points for their participation in the event.

For more information please contact:  
Bobbi Harris 541 991 1957  
Rae Henry 541 999 8624  
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